NEW SMALL GROUP CONNECTION GUIDE

HOW TO GUIDE YOUR GROUP TOWARDS DEEPER LEVELS OF CONNECTION TO ONE ANOTHER.

In This Guide
NEW CONNECTION IDEAS
GROUP RHYTHYMS
CHECK-INS
GET-TO-KNOW-YOU GAME IDEAS

NEW SMALL GROUPS

WHY HELP PEOPLE GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER WHEN STARTING A NEW GROUP? IT HELPS PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR SAFETY AND CONNECTION.

GAME IDEAS!
• TWO TRUTHS & A LIE
• WOULD YOU RATHER...
• WE'RE NOT REALLY STRANGERS
• SCATTERGORIES

NEW CONNECTIONS

WHEN A GROUP IS NEW, IT'S GOOD TO PLAN EXTRA TIME FOR FUN ACTIVITIES + CHECK-IN TIME.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS

• SHARE A MEAL
  Potluck at someone's home or in a park, BBQ in a backyard or go out to eat at a restaurant.

• DO SOMETHING FUN!
  Go bowling or mini golfing, or host a Game Night! (See page 3 for game ideas)

• THEME NIGHTS (GOOD FOR ONLINE GROUPS)
  Invite group members to dress up or use a virtual background related to watch a weekly theme (ie. Hawaiian Night: Tropical Zoom background with a Hawaiian shirt).

• SERVE
  Sign up to volunteer at the Care Center or through one of Willow's C&J Partners

WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
As a small group leader, you have the privilege to foster a safe environment in which people can regularly gather to grow in relationship with Jesus and learn to follow Him together.

Creating healthy rhythms will help your group find a safe, predictable environment for deeper connection to take place.

**WEEKLY RHYTHMS**

1. MEAL OR SNACK (OPTIONAL)
2. CHECK-INS
3. DISCUSS BIBLE-BASED CONTENT
4. PRAYER

**MONTHLY RHYTHMS**

1. SHARE YOUR STORY
2. SERVE TOGETHER
3. DO SOMETHING FUN
4. LONGER CHECK IN TIME AND/OR PRAYER

**DIFFERENT WAYS TO CHECK-IN EACH WEEK**

- **SASHET** (Sad, Angry, Scared, Happy, Excited, Tender)
  Ask each group member to check-in using 1-2 words to describe how they’re feeling coming in to group. If you have time, have them share a couple more thoughts around why they are feeling that way.

- **HIGH/LOW**
  Ask each group member share 1 high point and 1 low point from the previous week.

- **POINTING TO JESUS**
  Who in your life is currently pointing you closer to Jesus? Who are you currently pointing closer to Jesus?

- **WEATHER FORECAST**
  What is your personal weather status (sunny, cloudy, foggy, stormy, clear skies, etc.)?

- **.getConnection QUESTIONS**
  Answer the suggested Connect Questions in the Weekend Group Guide.
TWO TRUTHS & A LIE
One by one, each person in the circle says three statements about him/herself. Two of these statements must be facts, or "truths," and one must be a lie. The other members then try to guess which statement is the lie. This is a fun game to learn interesting facts about one another.

WOULD YOU RATHER...
Come up with a list of questions ahead of time and then pose them to the group. For example "Would you rather watch Netflix or Hulu?" You can search online and find several "Would You Rather" question prompts. This is a great way to get to know one another a little better. You could also have everyone hold up their fingers with a #1 or #2 so everyone can see each others answers at the same time.

WE’RE NOT REALLY STRANGERS
This is a great, purpose driven card game meant to empower meaningful connections. There are three carefully crafted levels of questions and wildcards that allow you to deepen your existing relationships and create new ones. This game is one you'll need to purchase here or at most local Target stores.

SCATTERGORIES
If in person, purchase the Scattergories game at any local store that sells board games. If online, go to www.scattergoriesonline.net to set up the game and play for free! This is a great game for groups who meet virtually.